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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Indochina	REPORT NO.		25X1
SUBJECT	Road Repairing by Democratic Republic of Vietnam	DATE DISTR.	15 February 1954	
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BY CABLE

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

- 25X1 1. The Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) has constructed a road from Yen Bay (N 21-43, E 104-52) to Conoi (approximately N 21-10, E 104-03) which is less vulnerable to French aerial bombardment and which shortens the land route between those two points. The route was formerly via Thanh Son (N 21-50, E 105-03), Hoa Binh and Route Provinciale. The new route reduces the distance from 300 to 100 kilometers.¹
2. For the past eight to ten months, civilian conscripted labor units and even regular DRV units have engaged intensively in repairing and improving Route Provinciale 41, Route Coloniale 2, Route Provinciale 24, the road joining Thanh Son to Route Provinciale 24 and the Yen Bay-Conoi road.
3. During December 1953 and the first half of January 1954, truck movements were very heavy between Yen Bay and Conoi, and on Route Provinciale 41 between Ke Na Bang (approximately N20-30, E 104-59), Moc Chau (N 2-53, E 104-32) and Conoi.²
4. French bombing has had important effects, but it has not seriously hindered movements of trucks and Dan Cong. DRV anti-aircraft fire is becoming more efficient and much of the moving of DRV materiel is done at night. An estimated 100,000 civilian conscripted laborers, are kept in reserve to assure continuous repair of bombed roads. When a road is bombed out, supplies are transported by carts until the road is repaired, which usually takes two to three days.

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Comments.

1. Construction of this road is a sign that the DRV intends to prepare an offensive in the direction of the upper Mekong.
2. It is believed that this activity is an indication of intense preparations for large scale operations against Dien Bien Phu or High Laos.

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